

**Correspondence
Opposing
Increased Betting Limits**

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



RECEIVED

OCT 15 2003

**GAMBLING COMMISSION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

October 8, 2003

Liz McLaughlin, Chair
Washington State Gambling Commission
P.O. Box 42400
Olympia, Washington 98504-2400

Dear Ms. McLaughlin,

As a father, a taxpayer and a state legislator, I want to go on record as being strongly opposed to any expansion of gambling in Washington state, and I specifically urge the Gambling Commission to reject the current proposal to raise the single-bet limit in card rooms from \$100 to \$300 per bet. Our state doesn't need it, and from what I hear from my constituents, the people of our state don't want it.

This proposed rule change is the brainchild of the Recreational Gaming Association, the lobbying group representing private casino owners. And I can't fault them for pushing for the change; the more money people are enabled to lose in their casinos, the more money the owners can earn. But let's look at this honestly: A one-hundred dollar bet might possibly be considered "recreational." A three-hundred dollar bet is clearly not recreational, especially in a game that allows as many as five rounds of betting per hand.

If we want to have an industry in our state in which people can - and will - lose small amounts while gambling for amusement, that's fine. But if we triple, or even double the limits of the amounts that gamblers can wager and lose, we guarantee a situation in which desperate people are going to lose entire paychecks on a depressingly regular basis.

When the Legislature authorized the operation of neighborhood card rooms, the intent was clearly not to create a Nevada-style gambling culture. The Legislature has clearly shown in recent years that it opposes further expansion of gambling in our state. Tripling the bet limit would certainly qualify as an expansion of gambling, putting more and more Washington families at risk of losing significant resources at a time when we can least afford it. Please reject the gambling industry's proposal out of hand during your Friday meeting in Spokane.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Hunter", written over a horizontal line.

Ross Hunter
State Representative
48th District
cc: King County Journal
Seattle Times
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
26th DISTRICT
PATRICIA T. LANTZ

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

JUDICIARY
CHAIR
CAPITAL BUDGET
HIGHER EDUCATION

October 10th 2003

Gambling Commission
PO Box 42400
Olympia, WA
98504-2400



RECEIVED
OCT 23 2003
GAMBLING COMMISSION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Dear Commissioners:

I understand the Gambling Commission is considering increasing the betting limits at House-Banked Card Rooms. Please know that I oppose the expansion of gaming in Washington State, and consider increased betting limits a step in that direction. I would also stand opposed to any such legislation to increase their exploitative efficacy.

A state budget reliant on gambling revenue suffers from volatility when times get tough, as we are currently witnessing. Projected gambling revenue has fallen well short of expected levels. Expanding gambling is not the answer. It only proceeds to drain money that could be used *for* our state *from* our state.

The future of Washington State's economy lies in its strengths. Our state is a flourishing mix of aerospace, technology industries, world-class research universities and institutions, and experienced entrepreneurs, from Bill Boeing to Bill Gates. I believe the expansion of gambling runs us down the wrong road. Gambling has a negative effect on our children, families, neighborhoods, and therefore our future.

I believe the legislative intent allowing taverns and restaurants primarily engaged in the sale of food and beverages to be licensed to conduct social card games has been ignored too long. The intent was to allow some legally regulated social card games as part of the business, not mini-casinos.

For too long, we have let the voice of those who stand to gain from gambling expansion to dominate the policy discussion. As a result, we have been moving from a state of "destination gambling" where you had to take a trip to gamble, either within the state or outside the state, and budget accordingly -- to "convenience gambling" where you can gamble on a whim within your community. It is time to turn back the tide. Please do not raise the betting limits in house-banked card rooms.

Sincerely,

State Representative Pat Lantz

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: 333 JOHN L. O'BRIEN BUILDING, PO BOX 40600, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0600 • 360-786-7964
TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 • TDD: 1-800-635-9993
E-MAIL: lantz_pa@leg.wa.gov
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
43RD DISTRICT
FRANK CHOPP
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

RULES
CHAIRMAN



November 13, 2003

Ms. Elizabeth McLaughlin, Chair
Washington State Gambling Commission
PO Box 42400
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Increased Betting Limits for Card Rooms

Dear Ms. Laughlin:

I'm writing to express my concern about the proposed amendment to WAC 230-40-120(2)(b) that would increase betting limits for card rooms. The State Legislature appointed a Task Force to study gaming in this state. I would ask the Commission not accept this proposed rule change at this time.

The Commission should be cautious in accepting WAC amendments that have the real or perceived effect of expanding gambling in Washington. As recently as yesterday, the House Commerce and Labor Committee had a work session to this very issue in addition to related issues. The Legislature is clearly considering gaming in a variety of venues. Making further changes now would not aid those legislative deliberations. Furthermore, I understand the at some Tribal compact negotiations included withdrawal of higher betting limit request based on representations that betting limits for non-tribal gaming would remain the same. We would like to gather more information about these compact negotiations prior to any rule changes going forward. For these reasons, I ask the Commission to not approve the proposed rule change.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Chopp
Speaker of the House

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: MOD 2, 104-E, PO BOX 40000, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0000 • 360-786-7920
TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 • TDD: 1-800-635-0003
E-MAIL: chopp_f@leg.wa.gov

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Citizens Against Gambling Expansion

SENT VIA FAX

November 13, 2003

Liz McLaughlin, Chair
Washington State Gambling Commission
PO Box 42400
Olympia WA 98504-2400

Re: Comments Regarding Expansion of House-Banked Betting Limits

Dear Chair McLaughlin and Commission Members,

I regret that I am unable to join you in person at your meeting today but I want to again express my strong opposition to the proposal to raise the maximum per-bet limit from \$100 to \$200 for house-banked card rooms.

As you know, I co-chair the group Citizens Against Gambling Expansion (C.A.G.E.), an organization of citizens, religious leaders, and former and present elected state and local officials, united in the belief that Washington State has too much gambling already.

Back in the 1970s when card rooms were first allowed, the idea was that friends could get together in a licensed facility and, pooling their own money, play poker. From that seemingly innocent beginning, the card rooms have morphed into a huge industry controlled by publicly-traded companies operating house-banked facilities. Hundreds of millions of dollars are wagered each year and the only winners are the card room operators. The tremendous growth has been allowed by many small changes in law and regulation – such as the one now before you.

But the proposal to double the single wager limit in card rooms to \$200 is no small change, it's a dramatic expansion of gambling. And it's not about making a social poker game more interesting. I think the truth is that this large stakes gambling proposal is intended to further prey upon compulsive and problem gamblers – people who need help, not opportunities to lose even more money.

P.O. Box 4116 • Seattle, WA 98104-0116 • 206/517-2623 or 877/202-7028
www.nomoregambling.org

Page 2

Letter to Washington State Gambling Commission

November 13, 2003

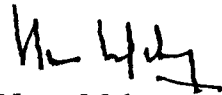
There simply is no rational basis for approving this increase. Gross gambling receipts at card rooms grew from \$30 million in 1998 to \$247 million last year. With this in mind, what is the basis for increasing wager limits?

I urge you to consider these additional issues as you evaluate the card room proposal:

1. Our evaluation of this proposal is that it constitutes an expansion of gambling, triggering the requirement of a super-majority approval by the Legislature. Attempts to circumvent this Constitutional requirement could subject the change to a court challenge;
2. The people of our state do not want any more gambling. This is shown in recent public opinion polls, and by actions of the Legislature, which last year rejected attempts by the gambling industry to further expand in our state;
3. Increasing these limits will put pressure on the Commission to increase gambling limits for other types of gambling;
4. The more cash on hand at a card room, the greater the chances of attracting crime and violence, and the greater the incentive for corruption and cheating.

On behalf of the citizens behind C.A.G.E., and the majority of the state's population that believes we have enough gambling already, I strongly urge you to reject this proposal. It will benefit only a few, but the harm will be spread to many, including the innocent victims of gambling addiction— the children and families of our state.

Sincerely,



Norm Maleng

Co-Chair, C.A.G.E.

King County Prosecuting Attorney

cc. Alan Parker, Vice Chair
Curtis Ludwig
George Orr
Judge Janice Niemi (Ret.)

Citizens Against Gambling Expansion

SENT VIA FAX

RECEIVED

10 September 2003

SEP 15 2003

Liz McLaughlin, Chair
Washington State Gambling Commission
PO Box 42400
Olympia WA 98504-2400

GAMBLING COMMISSION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Re: Comments Regarding Expansion of House-Banked Betting Limits

Dear Chair McLaughlin and Commission Members,

I regret that I am unable to join you in person at your meeting this week but I want to share some observations with you about the proposal by the card rooms to raise the maximum per-bet limit from \$100 to \$300 for house-banked card rooms.

Together with former Gov. Booth Gardner, I chair the group Citizens Against Gambling Expansion (C.A.G.E.), an organization of citizens, religious leaders, and former and present elected state and local officials, united in the belief that Washington State has too much gambling already.

The proposal to amend WAC 230-40-120 (Limits on Wagers in Card Games) represents a significant expansion of gambling in Washington. I believe the betting limits are already too high. In poker games, for example, there are as many as five betting rounds to which the limits may apply. Thus, a player may bet the current \$100 limit up to five times (\$500) on a single game of poker. Depending on the number of players, a pot can reach into the thousands of dollars. Under the card room proposal, a person could wager up to \$1,500 on a single hand.

Back in the 1970s when card rooms were first allowed, the idea was that friends could get together in a licensed facility and, pooling their own money, play poker. From that seemingly innocent beginning, the card rooms have morphed into a huge industry controlled by publicly-traded companies operating house-banked facilities. Hundreds of millions of dollars are wagered each year and the only winners are the card room operators. The tremendous growth has been allowed by many small changes in law and regulation – such as the one now before you.

Page 2

Letter to Washington State Gambling Commission
September 9, 2003

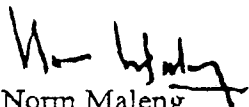
But the proposal to triple the single wager limit in card rooms to \$300 is no small change. It's huge and it's not about making a social poker game more interesting. I think the truth is that this large stakes gambling proposal is intended to further prey upon compulsive and problem gamblers – people who need help, not opportunities to lose even more money.

I urge you to consider these additional issues as you evaluate the card room proposal:

1. Our evaluation of this proposal is that it constitutes an expansion of gambling, triggering the requirement of a super-majority approval by the Legislature. Attempts to circumvent this Constitutional requirement could subject the change to a court challenge;
2. The people of our state do not want any more gambling. This is shown in recent public opinion polls, and by actions of the Legislature, which last year rejected attempts by the gambling industry to further expand in our state;
3. Increasing these limits will put pressure on the Commission to increase gambling limits for other types of gambling;
4. The more cash on hand at a card room, the greater the chances of attracting crime and violence, and the greater the incentive for corruption and cheating.

On behalf of the citizens behind C.A.G.E., and the majority of the state's population that believes we have enough gambling already, I urge you to reject this proposal. It will benefit only a few, but the harm will be spread to many, including the innocent victims of gambling addiction– the children and families of our state.

Sincerely,



Norm Maleng
Co-Chair, C.A.G.E.
King County Prosecuting Attorney

cc. Alan Parker, Vice Chair
Curtis Ludwig
George Orr
Judge Janice Niemi (Ret.)

October 21, 2003

To: Gambling Commission

From: Penny Lancaster, Director, Community Impact Spokane

Re: Raising the legal betting limit

Commissioners,

The following letter contains some comments made at the Spokane hearing, but was re-written in light of Mr. George Orr's motion.

Of course, the commercial outlets want to increase their take by making it easier for people to spend three times as much money, three times as fast. At the Spokane hearing Attorney Bob Tull claimed that this was good for the gambler because it gave him/her an opportunity to use more strategies, but then he claimed that the Casinos need to raise the limit so they can increase their profit. It doesn't work both ways. The LaConner police chief submitted a letter of support because he believes that more profit for the cardrooms equals more taxes, which increases his department's income. Sounds like everyone gets a cut - except the patron. I am hoping that the Commissioners remember their position as protector of the *public* welfare when making this decision.

I suggest that the Commission should do everything it can to assist the gambler in being more responsible in calculating and tracking his/her risks by:

1. limiting the single bet to \$100 a hand,
2. setting a loss limit of, say, \$500 a day, per casino
3. requiring the casinos to remit a statement by mail to the home addresses of the gamblers who have lost a total of, say \$1,000 or more a week, listing their wins and losses.
4. Raising the legal age to gamble to 21 years old.

These are the kinds of rules that the Commission should be considering for the sake of accountability, responsibility, and public protection. [I realize an application could be submitted on behalf of these suggestions.]

The cardrooms are petitioning the Commission to raise the betting limits because more of their profits are being taken up with the higher cost of employee benefits, taxes, and wages. But, it is NOT the state's burden to "save" the economy of any enterprise - ESPECIALLY ones that cause a negative impact on society. So called "gaming" causes embezzlement, children left alone while parents gamble, murders committed for the insurance money, suicides, divorces, etc. All this comes with a price tag to the taxpayer in addition to the human toll. Let's reduce and contain that kind of "entertainment," NOT expand it, or encourage it.

If the commercial outlets should obtain this concession, you know the floodgates will open for appeals by all the other categories of this broad industry. This has clearly been the history of the growth of gambling, and the state has been a major player through the lottery and "rule" changes.

The State, and its agencies, should be a **protector** - not a predator; nor should it allow others to prey on its citizens! If the Gambling Commission should allow our neighborhood cardrooms to raise the bet, they will be putting the special financial interests of a commercial enterprise above the welfare of the public.

This is not just a regulatory consideration. The government has a responsibility to consider the harmful impact of any industry and then take steps to reduce those harms. The tobacco industry and alcohol industry comes to mind. People can smoke and drink as much as they choose - just like card players can play as many hands as they want. But the government does limit how much nicotine they allow in each

cigarette and what the alcohol content will be in each bottle of booze. Setting limits on how fast they can lose their money would better protect gamblers (and their families). They can still bet as much money as they choose – it will just take them a little longer.

The truth is, raising the betting limit is not really a “rules” change, as much as it is an effort to expand the scope and function of a restaurant, bowling alley, or tavern that originally just wanted to offer an enhancement for their food, bowling, and beverage sales. I am surprised that this request is even in the purview of the Commission. I suggest that you table this Petition and Mr. Orr’s motion until the 2004 Legislature can more narrowly define what constitutes an expansion of gambling and what is a mere “rule” change.

Penny Lancaster
14816 E. Farwell
Spokane, WA 99217

January 1, 2004

To: Gambling Commission

From: Penny Lancaster, Director, Community Impact Spokane

Re: Raising the legal betting limit

Commissioners,

Please make NO concessions for increasing the ability of gambling patrons to loose money faster. The Orr amendment may seem like a reasonable compromise in light of the appeal by the RGA to stave off inflation, insurance, and regulatory costs, but every gain by the gambling interests increases the negative impacts of gambling in our communities and in our families. These gains are not likely to be rescinded at the end of the year and will spark an additional appeal by the non-profit gambling interests to improve their ability to compete.

Please ask the 2004 Legislators to better define whether increasing betting limits is a mere rule change or an actual expansion of gambling before you make this decision. Please also review the following letter that was sent in October 2003:

Of course, the commercial outlets want to increase their take by making it easier for people to spend three times as much money, three times as fast. At the Spokane hearing Attorney Bob Tull claimed that this was good for the gambler because it gave him/her an opportunity to use more strategies, but then he claimed that the Casinos need to raise the limit so they can increase their profit. It doesn't work both ways. The LaConner police chief submitted a letter of support because he believes that more profit for the cardrooms equals more taxes, which increases his department's income. Sounds like everyone gets a cut - except the patron. I am hoping that the Commissioners remember their position as protector of the *public* welfare when making this decision.

I suggest that the Commission should do everything it can to assist the gambler in being more responsible in calculating and tracking his/her risks by:

1. limiting the single bet to \$100 a hand,
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3. requiring the casinos to remit a statement by mail to the home addresses of the gamblers who have lost a total of, say \$1,000 or more a week, listing their wins and losses.
4. Raising the legal age to gamble to 21 years old.

These are the kinds of rules that the Commission should be considering for the sake of accountability, responsibility, and public protection. [I realize an application could be submitted on behalf of these suggestions.]

The cardrooms are petitioning the Commission to raise the betting limits because more of their profits are being taken up with the higher cost of employee benefits, taxes, and wages. But, it is NOT the state's burden to "save" the economy of any enterprise - ESPECIALLY ones that cause a negative impact on society. So called "gaming" causes embezzlement, children left alone while parents gamble, murders committed for the insurance money, suicides, divorces, etc. All this comes with a price tag to the taxpayer in addition to the human toll. Let's reduce and contain that kind of "entertainment," NOT expand it, or encourage it.

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The State, and its agencies, should be a **protector** - not a predator; nor should it allow others to prey on its citizens! If the Gambling Commission should allow our neighborhood cardrooms to raise the bet, they will be putting the special financial interests of a commercial enterprise above the welfare of the public.

This is not just a regulatory consideration. The government has a responsibility to consider the harmful impact of any industry and then take steps to reduce those harms. The tobacco industry and alcohol industry comes to mind. People can smoke and drink as much as they choose – just like card players can play as many hands as they want. But the government does limit how much nicotine they allow in each cigarette and what the alcohol content will be in each bottle of booze. Setting limits on how fast they can lose their money would better protect gamblers (and their families). They can still bet as much money as they choose – it will just take them a little longer.

The truth is, raising the betting limit is not really a “rules” change, as much as it is an effort to expand the scope and function of a restaurant, bowling alley, or tavern that originally just wanted to offer an enhancement for their food, bowling, and beverage sales. I am surprised that this request is even in the purview of the Commission. I suggest that you table this Petition and Mr. Orr’s motion until the 2004 Legislature can more narrowly define what constitutes an expansion of gambling and what is a mere “rule” change.

Penny Lancaster
14816 E. Farwell
Spokane, WA 99217

January 03, 2004 1:05 PM

I understand that the Gambling Commission will be taking testimony on January 8 regarding a proposal by Commissioner Orr to raise betting limits from \$100 to \$200 per hand, with the number of \$200 tables permitted being based on the total number of tables in the card room. I'm unable to attend the hearing in person and request that this letter be entered into the record.

As a member of a public body, I know that when there are seriously opposing positions, it's very tempting to seek a compromise. While this is often a perfectly reasonable course of action, it is on some occasions simply a dereliction of the body's primary responsibility to the public good. I think with regard to the issue before you that the Commission needs to at the least make a determination of public interest and necessity before increasing the stakes in neighborhood gambling rooms.

I've received letters and phone calls from constituents who are concerned about the possibility that gambling will be expanded locally. They are worried about the effects on individual gamblers and their families if gambling is made increasingly available and attractive. Higher betting limits mean higher and faster losses for most players and their families.

I'm also concerned about the possible increases in criminal activity often associated with serious gambling. Our population should not be put in danger in order to increase profits to card rooms, nor can our city (or most in the state) afford to enlarge our police force in this time of revenue shortfalls.

While I do not believe in prohibition, I do think it is appropriate for the state to act reasonably to protect communities from possible increases in criminal activity and families and those with addictive problems from excessive losses. This proposal appears to have a contrary effect.

1) Increasing profits for cardroom operators may well increase the number of local gambling establishments.

2) Basing higher stakes on the number of tables may encourage larger and more visible and attractive cardrooms.

3) Moving gambling from casinos, which require a deliberate and often fairly lengthy trip, to neighborhood businesses that are very convenient for impulse visits enables serious loss of money by people desperate to improve their financial situation at a time when many are underemployed or working at low wages and by those who may be transiently upset or inebriated.

I think it would be irresponsible to allow higher stakes than at present and hope the Commission will refuse to increase the betting limit. If the Commission does raise limits, is it possible to allow local jurisdictions to choose whether to implement higher stakes locally?

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission. (This letter is written on my own behalf and does not represent the views of the Walla Walla City Council, which has neither considered nor taken a position on this issue.)

Barbara Clark
PO Box 1222
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 522-0399

2316 Abernethy Road NE
Olympia, WA 98516-3781

RECEIVED
OCT 10 2003
GAMBLING COMMISSION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

October 6, 2003

Washington State Gambling Commission
P. O. Box 42400
Olympia, WA 98504-2400

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge your disapproval of higher limits in the state's card rooms. I am a family member of someone, now deceased, who was addicted to card room gambling. I can attest to how destructive this obsession became in my dad's life. The negative effects it had not only on his financial affairs, but to his relationship with my mom and me were profound.

His need to gamble became all-consuming and he was in the card room the moment in opened in the morning and came home only when its doors closed at 2:00 a.m. the next day. I have no doubt he'd have stayed 24-hours if the law didn't require the doors to close.

This is a personal story for me, and I'm sure one you've heard from many others. I've listened to the pleas from industry that say the card rooms need to increase the limit in order to stay solvent. Who says they have to stay solvent? It would be to everyone's benefit if all card rooms and gambling operations shut down in this state. I have no sympathy for those who would lose their jobs as a result of card rooms or casinos for that matter, shutting down. This is not an industry we should be expanding or nurturing in our state. It preys on those who are least able to resist its promise of winnings, destroys lives and makes otherwise good people into liars and thieves.

Please, I urge you to disapprove raising the limits.

Sincerely,



Debra L. Gregory

59 Citizens Opposing Increased Betting Limits for House-Banked Card Games

November 2003, Commission Meeting

1) From: Zapotocky Family [mailto:zapox6@afo.net] **Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2003

I am a 55 year old wife and mother with four boys living in Spokane. I was born in Shelton, WA where my 91 old mother now lives. She and my father were teachers in Shelton for a combined 70 years. They were decent, hardworking citizens. It is a good thing my Dad passed away in 1995, because he would look at the flood of gambling in our state today and be absolutely broken hearted. I know you must be a Democrat, but you must have some idea of how hard it is to raise kids...how hard it is to teach them good, decent values...how hard it is to lead them to the point where they work hard, save their money and spend it wisely? We have taught our's all of this, and more...their responsibilities to give back to their church with a little extra income to non-profit organizations that help fellow citizens like Habitat for the Humanities and Catholic Charities. So why are state workers like you encouraging 18 year olds to gamble? Why are you allowing this stupid lifestyle to spread and grow in power and influence? What are you thinking? That we will have healthy communities, healthy families and a healthy state if you push and shove our kids to spend lots of time in casinos. Honestly, I simply can't believe this thing is getting so out of control!!! And lowly citizens like me are no match for you people and the gambling interests. It is so scary, and nutsos!!! And most of our parents understood that, so what's wrong with you? I honestly did not know the age to gamble had been brought down to 18 until last week when two of my sons newly graduated high school friends came over and said, "Hey Brian, want to go gamble with us???" I thought they were kidding, it seemed so dumb. I have a copy of the National Gambling Commission report.....the stats for crimes and community disintegration in places like Las Vegas and Atlantic City after gambling got powerful are absolutely dire! I can only beg you to please represent the citizens like us you are sworn to PROTECT. Not exploit, not undermine, but PROTECT!!!! If you don't do your duty, no one will, and we are no match for the well funded, shrewd, powerful gambling lobbies coming into our towns... they will bury our boys under gambling debts! Please, please, please help us control this thing before it buries you, too, as well as both of our families. Please put my thoughts into the public record, even though I am guessing you and your buddies will be laughing at me. What a day we have come to, that "Public Servants" like you care more about gamblers than your own neighbors? Yours truly,
Cindy Zapotocky

2) From: Mike Lonergan [mailto:mikel@trm.org] **Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2003

Please do not raise the single wager betting limit for card rooms. How can they claim to be involved in a social activity with bets in the hundreds of dollars? Tacoma does not need this!

Mike Lonergan, Tacoma City Council

3) From: Randy Beal [mailto:randy@spokanefirst.org] **Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2003

I am encouraging you to not allow an expansion of the money limits for Card Rooms. We are currently experiencing enough social trouble with the fall out of Casino's that adding more options for gambling to the Public doesn't make sense. It doesn't seem wise to give men and women more temptation to foolishly use their money for gambling when many of them should be using it for raising their families and or paying their bills. I hope that you will recommend not increasing the limits.

Randy Beal

4 A.) From: Bob Higley [mailto:higbobe@spso.net] **Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2003

I have been told that there is an effort to increase the limits per hand from \$100 to \$300. Please let me know if this is true. If so, I strongly oppose such and expansion of gambling, and I will vigorously oppose such a move with the legislators on your advisory panel, or the ex-officio members of the gambling commission.

Bob Higley, Olympia

4 B.) From: Bob Higley [mailto:higbobe@spso.net] **Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2003

I have been advised that you will be considering a proposal to increase the betting limits from \$100 to \$300, and I have to assume that this is for card rooms. These facilities are currently able to let 18 year olds gamble at these card tables. Ladies and Gentlemen, when will the Regulators and Legislators begin to realize that the continual expansion of gambling is a cancer eating away at our society. We have heard that the Indians are NOT expanding gambling, yet look what has happened to Marysville by the Tulalup Tribe. Some of the largest

businesses in the area now on Indian property, without property taxes. The Tulalup Casino is a huge facility and we have been told that in the Tacoma area a new Casino is being built that will be the largest this side of Reno and the second largest employer in the county. What kind of GOOD business is this that takes from those foolish enough to waste their money on Gambling hoping to "Hit It Big" all the while knowing it is a LOSING endeavor. The Legislature and the Gambling Commission seem intent on just expanding gambling a little more, and a little bit more and a little bit more, so now we have tremendous gambling all across the state. The recent addition of the "Multi-State" lottery is developing only about half the expected revenue Which should be a wakeup call. We are getting over-saturated by gambling opportunities and gambling interests. It really is time to take a good hard look at what we have permitted to develop in our state!

Please do NOT permit this growth from \$100 to \$300. JUST SAY NO! Sincerely yours,

Bob Higley, 519 Percival St. SW, Olympia, WA 98502

5) From: Carol Lynch [mailto:wingshadows20012001@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
I say **no** to expanding gambling - that's what you'd accomplish by triple single wager betting limits.

6) From: WILMA henderson [mailto:jdwilma@spocom.com] **Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2003
Please donot EXTEND THE LIMITS ON GAMILING IN SPOKANE area. Thank you
Wilma Henderson

7) From: Roskelley, John [mailto:JRoskelley@spokanecounty.org] **Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2003
Please do not raise the wager for card room gambling. It seems to me as if we are right where we want to be. There's enough gambling in the State of Washington to keep those who like it busy. Raising the stakes puts a burden on families, many who can't afford to lose any money, let alone \$300 a wager.
John Roskelley, Spokane County Commissioner

8) From: Priscilla Miller [mailto:pris.miller@worldnet.att.net] **Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2003
Social card games don't involve \$300 bets per player per hand. Leave it at \$100.
Priscilla Miller, Anacortes WA

9) From: Guyofnp@aol.com [mailto:Guyofnp@aol.com] **Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2003
I am writing to oppose the increase of per-hand wager limits in card games. A \$300 per hand limit is not recreational gambling for any but a very tiny minority of very wealthy individuals, perhaps 1 person out of 10,000. Instead, it is a wager level that indicates either a gambling addict or a professional gambler. We don't need or want either in Washington State. In addition, persons carrying that much cash around will be targets for criminals, be they in the card room or out in the parking lot. Please do not vote to increase the wager limits - they are higher than they should be as it is. Please include my comments in the public record. **Guy Spencer, Councilmember**, City of Normandy Park

10) From: Barbara Clark [mailto:clarkbh@charter.net] **Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2003
I understand that the Gambling Commission will be meeting in Leavenworth this week and may consider a request to increase the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. As a member of the Walla Walla City Council and a private citizen, I would oppose such a change. I have received letters and phone calls from consituents who are concerned about the possibility of expansion of gambling locally. They are worried about the effects on individual gamblers and their families if gambling is made increasingly accessible and attractive. Higher betting limits mean higher and faster losses for most players and their families. I'm also concerned about the possible increases in criminal activity often associated with serious gambling. Our population should not be put in danger in order to increase profits to card rooms, nor can the city afford to enlarge our police force in this time of revenue shortfalls. While I do not believe in prohibition, I do think it is appropriate for the state to act reasonably to protect communities from possible increased criminal activity and families and those with addictive problems from excessive losses. I think it would be irresponsible to allow higher stakes than at present and hope the Commission will refuse to increase the betting limit. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission. (This letter is written on my own behalf and does not represent the views of the City Council, which has neither considered nor taken a position on this issue.)

Barbara Clark, PO Box 1222, Walla Walla, WA 99362, (509) 522-0399

11) From: Lisa Bennett [mailto:bennettla@charter.net] **Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2003

I am urging you to make my comments part of the public record regarding the card room owners wanting to raise the single wager betting limit to \$300. Please do not approve this request. I have a family member who is a gambling addict, and I know the pain and suffering our family goes through because of the gambling expansion in our state. Please do not further expand what is already available. Our social services cost in the state is increased, I know, because of the scourge of gambling. We are not profiting through the tax revenues. The national studies show that for every dollar in tax revenue, four dollars are spent in social services/law enforcement. That is not good use of my tax dollars. Please curb gambling and especially refuse to increase the single wager betting limit. Sincerely,

Lisa Bennett, 1519 E. Alder, Walla Walla, WA 99362

12) From: Dave and Martha Orvis [mailto:daveandmartha.orvis@verizon.net] **Sent:** Thursday, Sept. 11, 2003 I
sorry for the delay in my response. Feel free to use my name.

Note: This e-mail was sent with a copy of the Citizens Against Gambling Expansion e-mail.

Dave Orvis Edmonds City Council

13) From: pgeorge328@aol.com [mailto:pgeorge328@aol.com] **Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2003

I wish to state my opposition to the proposal to raise the single wager limit to \$300. My view is that the current mini-casinos are slumping due to saturated markets as we are seeing here in Yakima. Our oldest locally-owned casino - the Sports Center - just closed. It went bankrupt trying to compete with the larger operations. The mini-casino law was supposed to help locally-owned card rooms - not close them up.

Paul George, 5305 Meadow Lane Ct., Yakima, WA 98908-4259, 509/966 - 5097

14) From: dontin@pyrotek-inc.com [mailto:dontin@pyrotek-inc.com] **Sent:** Thursday, Sept. 11, 2003

When will you people wake up and smell the coffee! Increasing gambling is not going to help our longterm situation. I run a company with 1,100 employees and the last thing I want them to do is waste their paycheck in a casino instead of paying their mortgage, car payments, food, clothing, etc. Increasing gambling in Washington will only increase our problems with bankruptcies, crime, substance abuse, prostitution . . . the list goes on and I am sure you have read all the same studies about how legalized gambling has reduced the economic vitality of almost every state that has adopted it. Sure it gives you a short term increase in some tax revenues, but it will drive out retail businesses and make it less attractive for manufacturing businesses to locate here. In the longterm, you will have a less attractive state for companies to invest and you will have more of the social costs of dealing with the side effects of gambling. If you are not familiar with the statistics, let me know and I will be glad to share them with you. Do the right thing for the generations to come and prevent the spread of gambling. Regards,

Don Ting PS- you can quote me to if you think its helpful

15) From: Penny Lancaster [mailto:plancaster@spocom.com] **Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2003

Please refuse to increase the betting limit to \$300 as requested by the Commercial Gambling businesses. Such large single bets just creates a larger black hole for problem gamblers to fall into. Keep in mind that these mini-casinos are located right in our neighborhoods and attract unsuspecting visitors, often between 18-21 years old, who "try their hand" at these card games for the first time. A couple of wins and they are back more often then they should. The House is interested in making as much money as possible in as short a time as possible. The best ways to do that is increase the number of tables, provide machines that allow faster play, and increase the amount of money bet on each play. Remember when the taverns and bowling allies were asking the legislature to allow them to bank the games so they could offer an incentive to bring people in to eat, drink, and bowl? It would be best to return to Social Card Games played in the back room, but short of that I am asking you to hold the line on any further expansion. Thank you, **Penny Lancaster, 14816 E. Farwell, Spokane, WA 99217**

16) From: WSchara [mailto:wschara@yamana.com] **Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2003

Please do not raise the single wager betting limit in the card rooms to \$300 per hand. The card rooms are already hurting certain individuals and families so much in our area — increasing the betting limit would cause more harm. If you stand strong, it will help the most vulnerable people in our community. Yours truly, **William Schara, 3221 S. Rebecca St., Spokane, WA 99223, Phone 509-535-5830**

17) From: Barbara Skinner [mailto:bskinner@ci.sumner.wa.us] **Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2003

I am writing to express my dismay at the repeated attempts by the card room operators in Washington State to expand their operations in any way they can. They seem determined to open our state up as wide as possible to the same gambling activities that you can find in Nevada. Well, I don't want my state to become another Nevada! I am the **Mayor of the City of Sumner** and I know how most of the people in my city feel about card rooms and "mini casinos" in our community. They are opposed to expanded operations because we would have absolutely no control over where they could be sited. State law forbids cities the ability to zone specific areas for gambling activities. So we have a moratorium on expanded card rooms, or mini casinos, in our community. Years ago, when the card rooms were first suggested, those promoting the idea said they just wanted people to be able to have a little social game at the local tavern or bar. They didn't want Los Vegas, just a friendly little neighborhood game with people who came in every night and liked to play a friendly game with their friends. At that time, this sounded acceptable to me. Well, I don't know about you but \$100 as a limit sure gets past my definition of "friendly" and "social" and now the gambling industry wants to raise it to \$300! This is so far beyond the boundaries of what they were talking about when card rooms were first suggested, years ago, that it is ridiculous. And they keep pushing to expand it. Gambling businesses decided, a few years ago, to become the "Gaming Industry". When people decide to call their business something other than what it really is, doesn't that make you wonder about the other things they tell you. How much "truth in advertising" is there to the proposals and statements of the "Gaming Industry"??? The Gambling Commission is supposed to be watching out for the people of the state of Washington. We trust that they will keep our best interests in mind as they examine requests that come before them. I hope each Commissioner will review the history of card rooms in our state. Examine the comments made when they first started and track how they have grown and expanded in their operations. I am content to leave card rooms alone, as long as they stay the way they are constituted at this time. I am just very tired of hearing, every year, that they want to expand into mini-casinos, or into operations that are equal to the tribal casinos, and now that they want to raise their limit 300%. I can't imagine what they will want next year but I'm really annoyed at how they keep pushing. The people of our state are not requesting or supporting this expansion, it's the industry, and I am asking the Commissioners to protect our communities and our citizens from this determined expansion of gambling activities in Washington State. Thank you. **Barbara Skinner**, 318 Valley Avenue, Sumner, WA 98390, 253-4729 (h), 253-891-3318 (w)

18) From: FMichaelse@aol.com [mailto:FMichaelse@aol.com] **Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2003

Increasing the limits on betting in the Mini-Casinos will only increase the number of compulsive gamblers and hurt their families. NO EXPANSION of gambling is our message.

Fayetta Michaelsen

19) From: Bruce Wakeman [mailto:wakeman@spocom.com] **Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2003

Increasing the limits on betting in the Mini-Casinos will only increase the number of compulsive gamblers and hurt their families. NO EXPANSION of gambling and planned incremental reduction of gambling is a process that would be compassionate and a help to the overall well-being of our State and its citizens.

Bruce C. Wakeman, 7616 E.Baldwin Ave., Spokane, WA. 99212-2469, 509-924-9765

20) From: Paul Hyndman [mailto:phyndman@earthlink.net] **Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2003

The median income of Washington State workers declined 12.7% (to \$43,110) in 2000 (*'State of Working Washington'* article by the Northwest Policy Center, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington) and declined another 6.3% in 2001 according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census's 'Current Population Survey' in 2002. The median income, as you know, is that value at which half of the real households are above the amount and half are below the amount. If the median income in the State was approximately \$40,300 in 2001, and assuming that most of those gambling fall within the lower half of the median household income, then an increase in the stakes limit will adversely affect those who can least afford losses through gambling.

I request that the Gambling Commission not raise the stakes at card rooms from \$100 to \$300. I base my request on the fact that \$100 is likely more than the daily take-home pay of half of the people in Washington State. Losing more than three day's pay (\$300) on one hand of cards (or in one day) will adversely impact those families that can least afford it.

Raising the stakes will definitely profit the card room operators and may generate some income for the State coffers, but it will result in a quicker demise for the families of those many people losing necessary income through gambling. The financial burden of welfare assistance from the State will likely more than offset any income to the State.

I request that the Commission, if it does approve a raise in the stakes limit, also conduct a statistically valid study that would include the following: The range/distribution of annual earned incomes of those participating in gambling at card rooms the amount lost by those individuals in a one-year period gross & profit at the two levels of stake amounts income to the State at the two levels of stake amounts interviewing gamblers & their 'significant other' to determine the effects, if any, on the living standard of the couple and any kids record any changes in the number of people seeking State assistance where gambling is identified as one of the contributing factors

The Commission may already have statistically valid study information that may assist it in making its decision. If those who gamble will be better off with a \$300 stake, then approve it. If they will be worse off than with the \$100 stake, then don't approve the increase.

Be cognizant of the likelihood that, if the stakes are raised beyond \$100, that it is very likely that the quality of life for those individuals and any dependents will be degraded. A decision for increasing the stakes will, in my opinion, will result in a measurable lowering of the standard of living for those who can least afford it.

Please ask those at the public hearings to raise their hand if they are employed in the gambling industry, even on a part time basis. Asking for a show of hands at a public meeting of those who support the recommendation without determining how many are employed in the industry is like asking a room full of foxes if they like chicken! Don't be misled by numbers of people at the hearings. Do what is right for the citizens of this great State and reject any increase in the stake limit. Please include my comments as part of the Public Record. Sincerely,

Paul Hyndman, (509) 325-3666, 6121 N. Buffalo Street, Spokane, WA 99205-6610

21) From: Matthew W. Monroe [mailto:mmonroe@missionconceptsinc.com] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
As you know the odds in any game in the mini-casinos are in favor of house. Tripling the single wager betting limit only serves to triple the speed that a gambler gets shown the door after the lose what money they have. Granted, tripling the single wager betting might be more cost effective for the mini-casino in the short term, but in the long run it could actually hurt them. It is analogous to a farmer milking a cow. If the farmer takes all the milk from the cow every day, the calf will starve to death. If the farmer takes a limited portion of the milk, the calf can grow and become another cow the farmer can milk. It could even be argued that reducing the current wager betting limit by a fraction would serve the public and the mini-casinos better. It would show good faith by commission to the public, and most likely make statewide if not national news. It would also put the gambling industry on notice not to be so greedy and request a triple increase in limits. Please feel free to call or email me,
Matthew W. Monroe, (509) 624-3237

22) From: Linda Burton [mailto:burtonll@u.washington.edu] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
Gambling is bad. Just ask Rick Neuheisel! Gambling addiction is bad. My daughter-in-law's addiction has broken my son's heart, is leading to divorce, and has bankrupted the family and caused them to lose their home. What the cost has been to the children is immeasurable. My 10-year-old grandson commented, as we were visiting in South Dakota and seeing casino after casino: "I guess kids in South Dakota are sad too." My 6-year-old grandson pointed and commented, as we walked through the toy section of a store: "I used to have that toy until Mom pawned it." And the baby girl? In her mother's womb she experienced the sights and sounds of Shoreline's smoke-filled mind-numbing play-till-you-can't-steal-any-more-money casino environment. Daddy begged Mommy to come home, "Please don't expose our baby to this." Later, Mommy was arrested in Costco for shoplifting baby formula. The grocery money my son had provided had been dropped in Parker's. She lost over \$150,000 in Parker's alone!

WHY does Washington state promote gambling? WHAT does Washington state do to assist families broken by gambling? Yes, it is the individual's responsibility and CHOICE of whether or not to gamble, and when to stop. HOWEVER, we have had the good sense to make places who serve alcohol STOP SERVING those who have clearly lost good judgment. WHEN will we do that with gambling establishments? DO NOT EXPAND

GAMBLING OPPORTUNITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE! LET'S MAKE GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMPACT THEIR ENVIRONMENT HAS ON THE NON-GAMBLING PUBLIC. The MANY pay too heavy a price for the (pleasures?) (sins?) of the FEW.
Linda L Burton, 22701 Lakeview Dr, #D3, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

23) From: CRAIG FERDERER [mailto:clferd@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
Please do not continue to be a voice for expanding gambling limits in Washington. This will only increase the temptation for compulsive gamblers as well as creating more compulsive gamblers. Social card players do not wager \$300.00 in card games. compulsive gamblers do. Please use your influence for the betterment of our state and the people who live here. Respectfully,
Craig Ferderer

24) From: Pastor Al Hulten [mailto:pastoral@valleyassembly.org] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
I am opposed to raising the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand in card rooms. I ask you to use your influence to leave the betting limit where it is. Sincerely,
C. Allan Hulten, 4124 S. Sullivan Rd., Veradale, WA 99037

25) From: MJM Speaker [mailto:mjmspk@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
Please make it a part of the public record to the Gambling Commission that I am **very much against the card room operators' request to triple the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand**. This is yet another example of the constant effort to incrementally expand gambling in Washington State. Social card games don't involve \$300 bets per player per hand. **Please let the state Gambling Commission know my views**. I do not gamble, do not wish to gamble and feel we should have NO gambling in Washington State. **Please do not put further temptation in front of gambling addicts** who have no control over their behavior and who consequently ruin their lives and those of their loved ones around them, including their innocent children.
Thank you for strong consideration of my objections. Sincerely,
Marilyn J. Montgomery, 4715 East Sumac Drive, Spokane, WA 99223-2210

26) From: RodCFuller@aol.com [mailto:RodCFuller@aol.com] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
Subject: NO MORE GAMBLING!!!

27) From: JOSEPHINE SWANSON [mailto:josswan2@msn.com] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
Please do NOT expand opportunities for gambling in our state. We already have too much poverty, unemployment, and DEBT! Thank you. . .

28) From: Richard Shumate [mailto:RICHARDSHUMATE@peoplepc.com] **Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2003
I would like to strongly express my opposition to gambling expansion in Washington state. I would also like to urge the state to consider the complete elimination of gambling altogether.
The three Shoreline casinos Parkers, Drift on Inn and Goldies have taken my credit, my home, my wife and a quarter of a million dollars of my money. All against my will. Yet the law said there was nothing I could do about it except divorce my wife. She is a compulsive gambler by the way. She has now lost her job, her apartment and has robbed her employer of \$2000.00 which I believe is a felony. This is only one of many crimes she has committed. We are separated by the way.

These three casinos were notified by me three years ago of my wife's problem. They all agreed to ban her. They all reneged. They act with no responsibility or accountability. Their reign of terror on good citizens of this state should be put to and end. Not to mention the fact that my wife has collected all kind of benefits from the state due to her unemployment and related circumstances. The citizens are hurt and the state is hurt by these parasites called casinos.

You may reply to my email or contact me at 206-228-1412. I will testify before any committee about my circumstances and offer my opinions and/or help to anyone who wishes if it will help to bring an end to gambling in Washington state. Sincerely,
Richard Shumate

29) From: S Allsop [<mailto:sallsop4@msn.com>] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2003

Gambling is a destructive force in our society. It hurts families. It is not a legitimate way for the state to increase revenues. We are opposed to any increase in gambling activity in Washington. Please do not approve the per-hand increase currently being considered.

Steve and Susan Allsop

30) From: Chuck Price [<mailto:cprice@ecgengineering.com>] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2003

I would like to go on record opposing any increase in betting limits or expansion of any kind of gambling in Washington State. The negative impacts to our society from gambling far out weigh any benefit from revenue generated. We allow too much as it is and should instead require an increase in the age limit to 21 years of age for any kind of card room or other gambling. In addition, I am a City of Woodinville Council Member, and I am in opposition to gambling in our communities. It has had quite a lot of negative impact on our 18 to 21 year olds in the communities.

Charles E. Price, P.E. / Woodinville Council Member - ECG, Inc.

31) From: jvcrawford Crawford [<mailto:jvcrawford@msn.com>] **Sent:** Tue, October 07, 2003

Please refuse to elevate the card room maximum to \$300.00.

Jack Crawford, Kenmore, Washington.

32) From: John Ladenburg [<mailto:JLADENB@co.pierce.wa.us>] **Sent:** Tue, October 07, 2003

Please let the Commission Board know that I am completely opposed to raising the limits on gambling tables as in the current proposal before the Commission. Please reject this latest attempt to expand gambling.

John W. Ladenburg - Pierce County Executive

33) From: ANNA MILLER [<mailto:annaandchuck@prodigy.net>] **Sent:** Tue, October 07, 2003

Raising the single better wagering limit does not seem like a good idea for a State that wants to be a pro-family state. Men and women throwing their money away that should be spent on rent, utilities, clothes and food for their families. Let's not prostitute our state for a few more dollars.

Anna and Chuck Miller - Camas WA

34) From: Tim O'Neill [<mailto:TimO@co.klickitat.wa.us>] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2003

For the record, join in the opposition to the proposed expansion of the amount for single wager betting limits. Gambling has hurt the citizens of this state enough.

Timothy S. O'Neill - Klickitat County Prosecuting Attorney

35) From: Kpbpete@aol.com [<mailto:Kpbpete@aol.com>] **Sent:** Fri, October 10, 2003

Please know that my husband and I are opposed to any regulation that would increase the ease of gambling in Washington State. We have a child who had to claim bankruptcy because of the effect of gambling on his family. Fortunately he is controlling his addiction now, but gambling brings headaches to many of the least fortunate families.

Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth Peterson

36) From: Phil Brown [<mailto:phil@dj.com>] **Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2003

I hear that the state has been asked to increase the betting limit from \$100 to \$300. \$100 is already way too high. I urge you to reject this ridiculous request.

-Phil Brown

37) From: SRSnickers@aol.com [<mailto:SRSnickers@aol.com>] **Sent:** Wed, October 08, 2003

I am a resident of Auburn in King County, I have three children in elementary school and I am a member of my local unit PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association). I would like it noted for public record that I am opposed to tripling the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. I am unable to attend the Commission's meetings this Thursday and Friday in Spokane and therefore am unable to offer public testimony. Please include my comments as part of the public record.

Suzy Spiller

38) From: Arnold H Walta [<mailto:ahw6@juno.com>] Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2003

I write in opposition to the Card Room operators requests of the Gambling Commission to triple the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. I agree with the position of CAGE, Citizens Against Gambling Expansion, opposed to legalizing more gambling in the state. "Gambling hurts families and sends a bad message to our young people [namely,--you don't have to study and work hard to get ahead, you just need to be lucky.] Thank you for hearing in public record this request opposing any increase in the single wager betting limit.

Arnold H. Walta, Emeritus, a clergyman of 45 years in the Lutheran Church--**Missouri Synod, 19 years of which were in Kent, WA, Lutheran Church of the Cross, SE 240th & 112th Ave SE, before retirement.**

39) From: TROYROM@aol.com [<mailto:TROYROM@aol.com>] Sent: Wed, October 08, 2003

I understand that there is some discussion about increasing gaming in our state. Please include this email in the public record that I am opposed to it. I believe gambling preys on the weakest of our citizens and prohibits certain behavior in some that we do not wish to encourage.

Troy Romero - (in my individual capacity and not as the former mayor/current councilmember of the City of Sammamish)

40) From: Verna Griffin [<mailto:vsgriff2003@yahoo.com>] Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2003

Please make this email part of the public record at your meeting tomorrow and Friday. I am very opposed to the Washington State Gambling Commissions proposal to increase the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. I live in the City of Tukwila where we have too many casinos per capita. We are seeing a decrease in our property value because of the casinos (I live at the top of 58th Avenue South) and have had to deal with a murder at the bottom of the hill that was linked to the casinos. Tukwila is a wonderful place to live. However, we do not want to be "little Las Vegas" or known as the "Tukwila Strip." If you would like to talk to me more about this or to other members of our community that are against this, please let me know.

Verna Seal Griffin

41) From: Marilyn E. Owel [<mailto:councilwomanowel@harbornet.com>] Sent: Wed, Oct 08, 03

Please include the following comments in the record of the Gambling Commissions' deliberation on raising card room hand limits. I have represented our community, Gig Harbor, for more than 10 years. I currently serve as one of their council representatives. Prior to that I served on the Planning Commission. In addition to that I have more than a dozen years of administrative experience in municipal government. More important than all of that, I am a concerned citizens in my community, in my county and in this state. On questions of critical importance to all citizens, such as the expansion of gambling, the public process should serve the public and embrace its participation. PREMISE: (1) raising card room hand limits is in fact and intent an expansion of gambling, whether or not it is technically so defined under the rules; and, (2) considering this issue under the "RULES" framework is a disservice to public process and to the citizens of Washington State. To suggest that it is merely an insignificant rules change is disingenuous. Citizens are rightfully upset about having a government agency facilitate the expansion of gambling through mechanisms that circumvent the public legislative process and remove the industry from any local or legislative oversight whatever, whether it be through attempts of placing emerging technology within an existing license class (expanding the scope of a license class); removing the issue from the arena of the Gambling Commission to the Lottery Commission, changing definitions, and so on. Its a new game every week - and now we see this technique of using the "Rules" process to expand gambling. Where will it end? The expansion of gambling (in whatever disguise it is presented) is an issue more properly left to the Legislature within the framework of economic policy discussions which articulate the differences between economic activity and economic expansion and where all factors can be

considered, especially the social costs involved. In the future, please consider issues of this importance and impact within a broader public process framework that encourages participation by the average citizen.

Marilyn Owel

42) From: Lhumph1@aol.com [<mailto:Lhumph1@aol.com>] **Sent:** Wed, October 08, 2003

Don't use gambling as an answer to the budget deficits. We in Lakewood have our share of Casinos. We can learn to live with what we have but don't increase our numbers and don't increase the dollar limits.

Larry Humphrey, Councilmember, City of Lakewood

43) From: Tumwater UMC Office [<mailto:office@tumwaterumc.org>] **Sent:** Wed, Oct 08, 2003

I know this may sound as if I am narrow-minded, but I have been a pastor for over 40 years and have watched families destroyed by compulsive gambling. Most of them lost their marriages and many lost their homes and cars. A person can become a compulsive gambler after winning just once! I am strongly opposed to any increase in gambling limits, as this will make it even easier for persons to lose "everything." Is there some way to decrease the spread of gambling in our state? I would appreciate a reply.

Walter S. Snook - Pastor of Tumwater United Methodist Church

44) From: RWBowlin@aol.com [<mailto:RWBowlin@aol.com>] **Sent:** Wed, October 08, 2003

I am asking that you reject any further advancement in the availability of gambling in our state. Specifically, please do not increase the limits gambling house must currently be held to.

Roger Bowlin - Washington State Citizen

45) From: VICKI PEEBLES [<mailto:vicki.peebles@verizon.net>] **Sent:** Wed, October 08, 2003

I am opposed to tripling the maximum amount of money that can be waged from \$100 to \$300. The non-tribal casinos should operate within the boundaries that were put forth when they so willingly complied. They can always shut down if they can't make a profit. That's what legitimate businesses must do. I have no sympathy for those who prey on the stupidity and greediness of others.

Vicki Peebles, registered voter

46) From: Richard Wieser [<mailto:Richard.Wieser@mcsinet.com>] **Sent:** Wed, Oct 08, 2003

Card room operators are asking the state Gambling Commission to triple the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand! WHY APPROVE THIS???? Sure... gambling brings millions of dollars into our state. But at what cost.

1) My sister is married to a problem gambler. He gambled away his entire paycheck until he got fired for gambling on the job. Now he robs her money. 2) The property values on my home located 2 blocks from three gambling casinos (Tukwila) are depressed as a result of their presence. A realtor told me that people do not want to live close to a casino 3) A drive-by murder just 4 houses away from mine is a direct result of the casinos. Ask yourself!!!! Do you want a casino a block from your home????

Richard McLeland Wieser

47) From: Raiter,George [<mailto:RaiterG@co.cowlitz.wa.us>] **Sent:** Wed, October 08, 2003

Please let the record show that I am opposed to the proposed increased of the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. As a County Commissioner, I am very much concerned about revenue necessary to maintain services to our community. However, I feel the short term benefit that may come from increased gaming revenue would be outweighed by the long term detrimental effect to those who are subject to gambling addiction. And the cost to our social services that would result. Our Board has not taken a formal position on this issue.

George Raiter, Chair - Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners

48) From: Rogers, Glenn M [<mailto:glenn.m.rogers@boeing.com>] **Sent:** Wed, Oct 08, 2003

Please refuse to elevate the card room maximum to \$300.00.

Glenn Rogers , Kenmore, Washington.

49) From: Bob Dick [<mailto:bdick@harbornet.com>] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2003

I am a small businessman from Gig Harbor, am a member of the Gig Harbor City Council, and was a representative of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys on the original task force advising the Governor and the Gambling Commission on issues important to include in negotiating compacts with Tribes under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Please include my remarks in the record of the Gambling Commission. I am particularly concerned about proposals to increase pot limits or wager limits in cardrooms regulated by the Commission. The effect upon local communities is adverse and should not be

expanded. The adverse effects of increasing permitted tribal gaming on local communities are nowhere more apparent than in the excuse they give non-tribal gambling interests to ask for increases in gaming activities which are currently prohibited, increased locations where gaming is currently prohibited, and asking for reduced regulation on their activities. I believe that existing limits on non-tribal gaming should be maintained. I further believe that local government regulation of the time, manner and place at which all activities in neighborhoods are permitted should not be limited in any way for gaming licensees. Gaming activities are not essential public services which sometimes require local priorities and land use regulations to accomodate essential governmental services of the State. Just like liquor licenses which are issued by the state, but which are permitted only in locations where that kind of activity is permitted under local law, so also should gaming activities be permitted by the Commission only in locations where that type of activity is specifically authorized by local law and regulation. Actually gaming should be even more closely regulated by local government, as is adult entertainment, because both cause serious adverse effects to communities. The principal activity of the Commission should be to insure that the public is protected from adverse community effects of gaming permitted by the legislature. It can be most effective in that task when it shuns the desire of the regulated industry to expand its rapacious efforts to be included in every zone or neighborhood, and to act with ever expanding limits upon what is and is not permitted there. The time has come to draw a line in the sand and to narrow activities of the gaming industry, instead of facilitating its expansion. If the Commission is not comfortable with this duty, the Legislature will be asked to exercise the duty to reduce activities which the Commission has the authority to regulate. If the regulator becomes the spokesman for the greed of the regulated, a new regime is required. Please avoid any temptation to grant new activities or to reduce existing limits which are the only restraints on this industry which demands that gaming become the primary activity in the state.

Bob Dick

50) From: Terry Bornemann [<mailto:terryb903@comcast.net>] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2003

I am writing to express my opposition to increasing the limits for card room operators.

Terry Bornemann, Bellingham City Council

51) From: Elaine Harrison [<mailto:officeassist@qwest.net>] **Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2003

I am opposed to growing the gambling business in the State of Washington. I oppose the state sanctioned gambling to balance our State budget and believe other sources of entertainment would be healthier for all concerned.

Elaine K. Harrison, Office Assistant - Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

52) From: Carmen Ode [<mailto:carmen@messiahlutheranchurch.org>] **Sent:** Tue, Oct 07, 2003

I live in Auburn and am employed at a Lutheran church. We have a food bank and are able to assist five to seven families each week with \$50 toward their energy bills or housing costs. We open the doors at 8:30 a.m., and on Monday mornings we have people lined up at the door and the phone ringing with pleas for assistance. The money is gone by 8:40 a.m. and the calls and people keep coming the rest of the week. My point is this.....gambling in the city of Auburn is hurting our families. I realize some of these people are needing help because of unemployment. But until last December I lived 1/2 mile from the Muckleshoot Casino, and daily I saw the hundreds of cars in those parking lots. I urge the State Gambling Commission to NOT approve tripling the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. Gamblers do not need any more assistance for their problem.

Carmen Ode

53) From: Chuck Hindman [<mailto:chuck@kennewickfirst.com>] **Sent:** Tue, October 07, 2003

I write to express my hope that the Washington State Gambling Commission will oppose any expansion of the limits on single wager betting. It is a terrible way to raise additional state revenue because it inevitably has negative social consequences. I know that the prevailing notion is that gambling is a victimless activity. However, not only are those who engage habitually in gambling inevitable losers, but their families and communities are often also victims. Having counseled a compulsive gambler, I know how it can wipe out a family. I also know that, just like those who blow money on drugs, the losers often commit crimes to pay off their debts or neglect and abuse their families. Gambling has gone far enough. Please keep strict controls on it.

Chuck Hindman

54) From: Hanna Yuse [<mailto:yusemel@comcast.net>] **Sent:** Sunday, October 12, 2003

Please do not increase the single wager betting to \$300 per hand. Gambling can be a dangerously addictive habit for some people, and puts our children and their families in financial jeopardy. Raising the limit just makes it easier for people to go into financial ruin. Thanks for listening and thinking about our children.

Hanna Yuse - Legislative Chairperson, McAuliffe Elementary PTSA

55) From: Allan & Barbara Van Ness [<mailto:van.ness@verizon.net>] **Sent:** Fri, Oct 10, 2003

I have been informed that there is a move to increase the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. **I urge you to vote against this change.** We have too much gambling in the State of Washington already. Again, please vote against this increase in card room betting limits.

Allan and Barbara Van Ness

56) From: Jeff Richardson [<mailto:richardsonj@comcast.net>] **Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2003

I am a postal worker here in Tacoma, and I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of this crippled economy on our citizens. Houses selling months after they're bought; unemployment checks coming month after month after month; homes boarded up and filled with trash, their inhabitants gone to new counties, prisons, or foreign wars, their families broken up and their futures uncertain. It is my understanding that the Gambling Commission has been approached with a plan to increase betting limits in our state's cardrooms. This plan, along with any increase in gambling, is nothing more than a further attempt on the part of gambling organizations and those who profit from their activity from squeezing more money from those who are suffering in this weak economy. Think about it, who gambles more than anyone else, but those who have such great needs that they are risking everything to get enough money to break the cycle of poverty. Gambling taxes are, like the taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, regressive taxes that exploit the poor to pay for services that all members of the state enjoy. It seems to me that every dollar made from gambling should be spent on programs to help gambling addicts break the habit, rather than attracting more and more people into this destructive lifestyle. I understand that you have a fair amount of power in your position. Surely you have enough power to protect our citizens from the predatory practices of those who seek profit over the safety and emotional independence of those who you have been charged to protect. Thank you, and God bless.

Jeff Richardson

57) From: MMKROWS@aol.com [<mailto:MMKROWS@aol.com>] **Sent:** Sun, Oct 12, 2003

I stand firmly against raising the single wager betting limit to \$300. This incremental escalation of gambling is a very bad precedent. Please do everything in your power to keep gambling in Washington State limited to "recreational only" very low levels.

Margaret Krows - Kenmore, WA

58) From: Hamblen, Allen@HDQ [<mailto:AHAMBLEN@glaciertnw.com>] **Sent:** Tue, Oct 7, 03

I just wanted to let you know that many of us are opposed to legalizing more gambling in the state. Gambling has doubled in Washington over the past five years, and if the pro-gambling lobbyists get their way, it could double again. Gambling hurts families and sends a bad message to our young people (you don't have to study and work hard to get ahead; you just need to be lucky). I hope you take a very hard look at this issue before we create the potential for increasing poverty.

Allen Hamblen

59) From: Mike and Debbie Howard [<mailto:howards50@comcast.net>] **Sent:** Thursday, Oct 23, 2003

I am a resident of Auburn in King County and am a member of my local unit PTA. I would like it noted for public record that I am opposed to tripling the single wager betting limit to \$300 per hand. I am unable to attend the Commission's meeting on Thursday, November 13th in Seattle and therefore am unable to offer public testimony. Please include my comments as part of the public record.

Debbie Howard, 5401 Nathan Loop SE, Auburn, WA 98092